

SENATE BILL 870

By Harper

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 44,  
Chapter 17 and Title 63, Chapter 12, relative to  
animals.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 44, Chapter 17, is amended by adding  
the following as a new part:

Section 44-17-601.

(a) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Companion animal" means any animal that is commonly kept  
by persons as a pet or for companionship and has been domesticated so  
as to live and breed in a tame condition. Such term includes but is not  
limited to dogs, cats, ferrets, gerbils, guinea pigs, hamsters, equines, and  
rabbits;

(2) "Chemical capture" means the capture of companion animals  
by means of sedation using approved drugs and drug administering  
equipment;

(3) "FDA" means the United States food and drug administration.

(b) A certified animal control agency, as defined in § 63-12-103, may  
authorize the chemical capture of companion animals without a veterinarian  
being present.

(c) All capture drugs used pursuant to this section shall:

(1) only be administered by individuals that are appropriately  
trained and competency-certified by the state veterinarian to humanely  
use and administer the approved drug(s);

(2) only be administered in the species in which the FDA has approved the drug(s) for use;

(3) only be administered via an approved route of administration for the species being given the approved drug and in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations; and

(4) be approved by the state board of veterinary medical examiners.

SECTION 2. The commissioner is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act. All such rules and regulations shall be promulgated in accordance with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.